



## COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for November 2, 2009

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**MILLER PROMOTING TECHNOLOGY SAVINGS:** Since joining City Council, [A. Troy Miller](#) has made it a priority to apply technology updates to various City operations to save taxpayer dollars. Miller is sponsoring *ordinance 1258-2009* to authorize the Department of Technology to establish purchase orders for equipment and professional services associated with Metronet's telephone services voice over internet protocol (VOIP) project. The contracts will increase VOIP services at City Hall, Carolyn Avenue, and Piedmont Avenue facilities.

**SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE COURT PROGRAMS:** City Council continues to support innovative programs used by the local court system to rehabilitate non-violent offenders. Earlier this year, Councilmember [Eileen Y. Paley](#) sponsored legislation to create two new Specialty Court Dockets to provide intensive supervision for those convicted of low level prostitution and drug crimes. The programs are an alternative to traditional incarceration and according to court leaders, are expected to save taxpayers up to \$2-million dollars a year in court related expenses. Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1462-2009* to modify a lease agreement with Franklin County, allowing Alvis House, a non-profit human services agency that provides re-entry and transitional assistance to individuals and families who have been affected by incarceration, to make improvements to City-owned property at 2655 Jackson Pike. The building will be used by Alvis House to continue its mission to provide education, treatment, life skills, and other research-based programs that help clients rebuild their lives, strengthen their families and become contributing members of the community.

**HELPING FAMILIES GROW:** The Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program helps build healthy families in Columbus. WIC provides various healthcare programs to income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. Councilmember [Charleta B. Tavares](#), chair of the Health, Housing & Human Services Committee, is sponsoring *ordinance 1397-2009* to allow the Columbus Department of Health to accept a \$478,460 grant from the Ohio Department of Health to fund the WIC program at Nationwide Children's Hospital through September 30, 2010.

**KEEPING COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL:** Each year, Keep Columbus Beautiful (KCB) organizes grassroots litter removal efforts to eliminate trash and debris from public spaces. Recently, KCB announced it is receiving a national award for their 2009 Spring Litter Cleanup that removed more than 1,000 pounds of cigarette butts from freeway ramps and interchanges throughout Columbus. Public Service Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1391-2009*, which authorizes KCB to apply for a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to develop and support a Parsons Avenue spring cleanup from Livingston Avenue to Marion Road. The program will target litter and graffiti along the business corridor. The neighborhoods of Schumacher Place, Merion Village, Ganthers Place, Swain's Corner, Southside C.A.N., Hungarian Village, Reeb Hosack, and more will be the focus of volunteer recruitment to help remove litter and graffiti from the area. Grant funds would be used to support this collaborative community improvement effort with supplies, such as litter grabbers, gloves, bags, brooms, and rakes.

**ZOO EXPANSION PLANS:** The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is one of the top attractions in central Ohio and the nation, being named the #1 Zoo in America by USA Travel Guide. In an effort to continue expanding the already superior programming at the Zoo, Councilmember [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, is sponsoring *ordinance 1442-2009* to grant an easement to Columbus Southern Power Company to provide electricity for the Polar Frontier Exhibit. This new attraction will re-introduce polar bears to Zoo visitors. Zoo leaders are hoping to increase awareness of polar bear survival issues and better educate the public about polar environmental concerns in general.